

Masses For The Week

Monday - February 8

6:30 Mary Ann Hoops
9:00 Anton Lomnitzer

Tuesday - February 9

6:30 John & Gloria Mangan
9:00 Andrew McCarthy, Birthday

Wednesday - February 10 - Ash Wednesday

6:30 William Maher
9:00 Willa Caddy
7PM Stanley J. Szmytkowski

Thursday - February 11 - Our Lady of Lourdes

6:30 Gene Sattler
9:00 Louis Mosca

Friday - February 12

6:30 Anne Doyle
9:00 Sadie Della Croce

Saturday - February 13

9:00 MULTIPLE INTENTIONS ANNOUNCED AT MASS
5:00 Theresa Fulton
7:00 Madeline T. Stein

Sunday - February 14

7:00 The People of the Parish
8:30 Jane Abbatiello & Matilda Russo
10:00 Jean & Frank Portelli
11:30 Sam Malerba
1:00 Anthony Semineiro
5:30 Tom Mitchell & Joe Hughes, Sr. & Jr.

Readings For The Week

Mon. 1 Kings 8:1-7, 9-13; Mark 6:53-56
Tues. 1 Kings 8:22-23, 27-30; Mark 7:1-13
Wed. Joel 2:12-18; 2 Cor 5:20-6:2; Matt 6:1-6, 16-18
Thurs. Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Luke 9:22-25
Fri. Isaiah 58:1-9a; Matthew 9:14-15
Sat. Isaiah 58:9b-14; Luke 5:27-32

Sun. Deuteronomy 26:4-10 *Moses told the story of the Israelites: The Lord God led them from bondage to freedom. This story should always be recalled before offering gifts to God. The people of God can rejoice over the many good things the Lord has given them.*

Romans 10:8-13 *God's word is on your lips and in your heart. If you proclaim with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe it in your heart, you will be saved. "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."*

Luke 4:1-13 *Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit into the desert for forty days. There he ate nothing and was tempted by the devil. Afterward, the devil left him to await another opportunity.*



Divine Mercy Novena
Every Friday at 2:00 p.m.
in the Eucharistic Chapel
ALL ARE WELCOME!

Our Weekly Sacrificial Gift

Weekly Budget: \$17, 500.00
Amount Received 1/31/16: \$20,325.16

Thank you for your great generosity!

Reflection & Living Stewardship



In today's readings, both Isaiah and Peter hear the call of God and feel themselves unworthy. But, reassured by the Lord, both answer and follow. Do I hear the Lord asking, "Whom shall I send?" Am I prepared to answer, "Here I am. Send me?"

We are grateful this week for all stewards in our parish who respond to God's generosity in their own lives by being generous to the poor, feeding the hungry and consoling the sorrowful, both within our parish and outward to the wider community.

Charismatic Prayer Group

Lent

For most of us Lent is about giving something up, usually something that is hard to do without. While giving up pizza, ice cream and chocolate might be devastating to some, consider this - God gave up His own Son! Jesus gave up His life! This year try giving up and giving in. Give in to helping someone in need. Give in to going to church during the week if not for mass, then just to pray. Give in to walking with Jesus. He is here at our meetings.

Our next meeting is Monday, February 8th (weather permitting) at 7:30 PM in the Church. Please call (516) 993-9672 for prayer requests or more information.

H.O.P. Club Winners

2/1/16 #555 Rachel Melito \$25
2/2/16 #14 Jim & Nancy Waters \$25
2/3/16 #660 Rose Marie Chimenti \$25
2/4/16 #425 Eleanor Szmytkowski \$25
2/5/16 #177 Peter Manton \$50



Wedding Banns
None at this time.



"Whatever you do for one of these, the least of my sisters and brothers, you did it for me."

This week, the Pantry could use beef stew, pasta sauce, canned chicken, peanut butter, egg noodles, mac & cheese, Rice-A-Roni, white & brown rice, juice boxes, mayonnaise, icing, pudding, dish soap, paper towels and baby wipes.

Thanks to your generosity during the month of January, we were able to serve 398 people from 83 individual families. Thank you for all you do for those in need!

Parish Outreach Food Pantry:

208 Broadway, Bethpage

Monday: 9:30AM - 2:30PM

Thursday: 2:00PM – 7:00PM

Phone: (516) 931-7332

Altar Bread & Wine

Week of Feb. 7 - 13, 2016

*In Loving Memory of
Thomas & Angela Critelli*



Sanctuary Candle

Week of Feb. 7 - 13, 2016

*In Loving Memory of
Connie, Michael A. Jr. & Sr.
& Michael V. Maggio*



Rest in Peace

Acts 7:49: "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit."

Gloria G. Carroll, Gary McDonald

Lillian C. Quinn, Anne M. Scimeca

Frank Mandriota, Jr.

REMINDER: Please call the rectory at 931-0818 to remove a name from the list.

Thank you.

Please pray for the sick of our parish:

Ledwin Mason, Leevalli Annearosa, Pattie Meegan
Leigh Murphy, Richard Piernini, Joseph Simon
Douglas Torres, James Robertson, Amy Hayes
Mom & Dad, Bill Kelly, Matthew Messina, Pat Cannata
Christopher Gratton, John Mitchell, Barbara Thompson
Donald Castor, Dorothy Quinn, Zachery Duff, Sam Zubov
Patricia Marrone, Mary Henson, Mary Lynn Brassil
Catherine & Victor Battiatia, Brendan Rodriguez
Rebecca Passaro, Dot Widyn, Annette Giuliano
Madeline Ciaravino, Nicole Cagna, Gary Vlahov
Tom Schuerlein, Katie Walsh, Chris & Raymond Mirendia
Louise Sandberg, Florencio Carmenate, Anthony Luisi
Mary McCarthy, Christina Macchio, Karen Kilgard
Angela Calendrille, Ann Marie Frayler, Nicholas Balducci
Robert Kennan, Corey Voboril, Charles Walsh
Baby Scarlett, May Duffey, Tommy Johnson, Louise Smith
Joseph Vareed, Anna M. Bosco, Baby Daniel, Janet Medina
Kevin Henson, Marie Newman, The Mascia Family
Edward Brown, Ceil Hollander, Ann Mirto, Vicki Perri
Daniel Costa, Nikki Eleanor Behrik, Hector Valentine
Theresa DuRoss, Bob Baciуска, Carol Ann Scudder
John Scudder, Thomas Napoli, Justine & Nicole Scudder
Joan Spira, Gerald Campbell, Vincent Esposito, Terry Hall
Joe Bauer, Catherine A. McCarthy, Paul Granberg
Charles Boyce, Elsa Ryan, Sarah Messin, William Boyce
Joann Sescila, Albert La Rocca, Michael Arato
Elizabeth Ryan, Ken Mannion, Tom Doty, Linda Malone
Laura Cronin, Lynn Calo, Christine Chiarappa
Michael Kott, Jr., Connie Burgess, Dolores Miller
Susan Carroll-Goyan, Carol Episcopio, Donna Rusch
Samantha McNeil, Patty & Tom Turano, Antonia Binetti
Layla Barr, Fran Brideau, Kevin Connors, Sal Mascolo
Jerome Antonucci, Nicholas Amato, Poppy Singh
Jesusa Aquino, Joseph McCroary, Guido Penafiel
Barry Monteleone, Dolores Lordahl, Charlie Hoffmann
Nadine Lewin Wall, Richard Graziano, Jean Mulligan
Carol Posnjak, Geraldine Zeterberg, Susan Peters
Stephen Hogan, Edward Boyce, Fran & Al Gandolfo
Fr. Edmund Faliskie, CSSR, Elinor Gabbola
Sheila Neumann, Terrence Lynam, Joseph Abruzzo
Taylor, Michael Kott, Jr., Angelo Pennestri, Ann Lazzara
Lee Berkowitz, Danielle McCarthy, Charles Drew
Kevin Connors, Fran Connors, Joseph Kostyak
Lorie Penafiel, Johnny D., Anthony Morello
Anthony Krich, Cynthia & Don Mirabel, Addie Romano



The Pastor's Letter

My preaching partner on the missions, Father John McGowan CSSR, likes to tell the story of hearing the confessions of children who were celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time. He says he had a very earnest young boy in front of him, sitting on a chair that left his feet dangling since they did not reach the floor. After finishing his confession, the boy recited an Act of Contrition from memory. Part of the prayer went like this: *I am sorry for all these sins and for all the sins of my youth.* Father John could not help but smile at the sincerity of the lad, and the words *sins of my youth* spoken by a seven year old!

Over the past two Saturdays, we have been celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation with the second graders in our religious education program who are making their first confessions. After Easter they will make their First Holy Communion. The way we celebrate first penance now and the way it was done in my time as a child, could not be more different. Our religious education coordinators, Pat Ryan and Laura Leigh Agnese, the teachers, and the music team under the direction of Elena Scollo, have created a liturgical celebration that is both prayerful and joyful.

I confess that I do not remember my first confession, but I know I did it with my classmates on a school day, in a dark box where I could not see the man beyond the voice, behind the sliding door. My parents were not there, nor was there any songs sung. It was a somewhat frightening experience to go into the confessional, and there was a great fear that I might forget the exact words that I had been memorizing for months.

At our present celebration, the children come to the church dressed up for a special occasion. They are with their parents, brothers and sisters, grandparents, and other family members. There are several songs sung during the service that focus on how much Jesus loves each one of us. The Act of Contrition is recited together from a handout so there is no worry about forgetting the words. After the confession, the priest hands the child a blessed pin as a remembrance of this first encounter with God's mercy in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Some of the parents also go to the sacrament. Some of the children are a bit nervous when they come into the room to go to confession. I do not think they are worried so much about their sins or *being yelled out for being bad* (as I have heard some older people say as they share their memories.) I suspect they are a bit nervous since it is the first time they have celebrated the sacrament.

I think this change in style reflects well the stories of Jesus forgiving sinners. In almost every story of Jesus wrapping someone in the arms of his loving mercy, a banquet follows. I think of the story of the *Prodigal Son* whose return is celebrated with the fatted calf, or the banquets held by Zacchaeus and Matthew in celebration of the mercy of God. Jesus told us: *There is more joy in heaven over the return of one sinner than over the ninety nine who remain faithful.* We must rejoice and celebrate the amazing grace of God's forgiveness. Obviously, second graders are not great sinners. Yet, it is clear to me that they know what it means to do right and wrong, how actions can hurt the feelings of others and how good it is to say sorry. They are both innocent and humble.

I do have a fear that our culture has a desire to move away from the idea of personal accountability and sin. It seems that when a person does wrong, there is often the attempt to blame this failure on someone else - "It is never my fault!" We cover ourselves with the words that "everyone does it, so who cares?" I think one of the most dangerous realities of today is that our world is losing a genuine sense of sin. "If I do not know my sins, then why do I need a Redeemer?" People often say, "can't I just express my sins to God?" We should tell God we are sorry. He is always forgiving. *But* I wonder if we ever really sit and reflect on how my actions have hurt others and myself. Have I ever wept for my sins? I believe the vast majority of people are not great sinners, but not to see my need for mercy is to not let God truly embrace me in my humanity.

I once heard a talk where the speaker focused on the difference between contrition and guilt. Guilt is about me: "look how bad I am." In truth it is almost a kind of false pride. We decide we will be the judge of our sins. When we have true contrition in our hearts, then the focus is on *God*. "Look how great God is that he forgives me. "

Lent is coming soon. Pope Francis has declared this the Year of Mercy. Perhaps it may have been a while since you celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation. For me, the most important part of going to confession is what happens *before* you see the priest. It is that time when we sit and think about our lives. We see the good we do. We call to mind our blessings. And, we look into our lives and see how we might be more faithful to the God who loves us by calling to mind our sins.



The priest won't give you a blessed pin, and I doubt that anyone will take you to lunch. *But* you will hear those beautiful words, *Go in peace; your sins are forgiven!*

Father Patrick Woods, CSSR
woodscssr@aol.com Website: smtbethpage.org

VIRTUS TRAINING **Protecting All God's Children**

If you wish to volunteer in any capacity in a parish, the Diocese of Rockville Centre requires that you **first register** for Virtus by logging on to the diocese website at www.drvc.org. **Virtus registration can be found at the lower right of the home page.** If you have any problems with the process, please call the rectory at 931-0818 and someone will get back to you with assistance.

Next Virtus at St. Martin of Tours
Thursday, February 11, 2016
7:00PM - 10PM
St. Alphonsus Parish Hall

ANNUAL LENTEN SOUP SUPPER

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2, 2016
SCHOOL CAFETERIA (EMMAUS HALL)
6PM - 8PM**

All Parishioners and their families and friends are invited to share, not only the warmth and goodness of homemade soup, but also in the warmth and goodness of our parish family!



This simple Lenten meal of soup and rolls is offered to all who come. Any leftover soup will be brought to the home-bound and the sick. This means that those in need can feel the warmth of soup, sharing with their fellow men and women and, above all, the love of Jesus Christ. This is the gift of our faith reaching out to others during this sacrificial season.

**It's time to think about making soup
for this annual Lenten event!**

**To make soup or to volunteer,
please call Pat Ricci at (516) 796-1320.**

**Soup warms our bodies.
Sharing warms our hearts.
The Season stirs our souls.**

Be part of St. Martin of Tours reaching out!

PLEASE PRAY CONSTANTLY FOR THOSE SERVING IN OUR MILITARY



Lord of Hosts, we commend to Your gracious care and keeping all the men and women of our armed forces at home and abroad. Defend them day by day with Your heavenly grace; strengthen them in their trials and temptations; give them courage to face the perils that beset them; and grant them Your abiding presence wherever they may be. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.



CPT Gregory Holownia, US Army
 MAJ Erika Holownia, US Army
 PO3 Matthew Sadecki, USCG
 SGT Zachary John Sheehy, USMC
 PVT Travis Ruggiero, US Army
 CPL Dennis Diesel, USMC
 L CPL James Kruper, USMC
 SPC Matthew P. Sirianni, US Army
 CPT Conor B. Murphy, USMC
 1LT Victoria Meyer, US Army Nurse Corp
 PO1 John Paul Pedalino II, US Navy
 CPT Thomas P. Shea, USAF
 SGT Michael John Kelly, USMC
 1LT Brian McGrath, US Army
 SPC Matthew Castellano, US Army
 PFC Michael Patrick Murphy, US Army
 PFC William Corrigan, USMC
 PFC Salvatore Battiata, USAF
 LT Daniel Cloonan, USCG
 PVT Daniel Kuhlmann, US Army
 LCPL Jonathan M. Gordon, USMC
 2LT Sean O'Donnell, USAF
 SGT Matthew C. Windisch, USMC
 E3 CORPSMAN Robert Fidnarick, US Navy
 1LT Brian Thorpe, US Navy
 PO3 Joshua Zimmerman, US Navy
 MAJ Brendan McEvoy, US Army
 PVT Matthew F. Mayerhofer, US Army
 BUCN Sean Bourke, US Navy
 PO3 James Fischer, US Navy
 LTC John Evans, US Army
 STS2(SS) James McDevitt, US Navy
 ABHAA Michael Creagh, US Navy
 PVT Steven DiPaolo, USMC
 SSGT Sean V. Oliva, US Army
 2LT Samantha Lopez, US Navy
 SSG George Howard, US Army
 LT Mario Lopes, USMC
 PVT Brian Barcavage, US Army
 CS1 Andrew L. DeMarsico, USN
 MAJ Thomas E. Mangiamele, US Army



February 2016

February is one of those months that often gets overlooked. It's cold, gray, and nothing exciting is happening... Luckily SMT Youth Ministry has plenty of things going on to keep you busy!

We look forward to serving you!

~ Erin and the Core Teams

STEUBENVILLE NYC+

We're Registered!!!

June 24th – 26th

St. John's University

Limited spots still available!

Contact the Office of Youth Ministry to find Out how you can sign up TODAY!



BethanyHouse

changing children's lives

Bethany House is a composite of residential options for women and children who are caught in the crisis of homelessness. Bethany defines its mission as a response to its belief that each person deserves and needs adequate food, clothing, and shelter, provided in a nurturing and sustaining environment.

More Info about Bethany House can be found here: www.bhny.org

SMT Life Teen Welcomes

Bethany House!!!

At our Life Night on **February 28th** we will be joined by representatives from Bethany House.

We are looking forward to learning about the mission work of Bethany House and finding out how we can partner with them to serve the residents of Bethany House in the future!

RETREATS



Faith * Hope * Love

February 27th

10am – 8pm

SMT

Open to all 6-8th Graders

\$5



Long Island Life Teen Winter

Retreat

Glory Revealed

March 11-13th

7pm

Kellenberg MHS

\$125

Contact the Office
of Youth Ministry
for more info!!!

Life Teen

Life Nights take place from 6:45-8:30pm in the OLPH Youth Room – Dinner is served.

2/7: NO Life Night – Super Bowl Sunday

2/9: Adoration 7-8pm

2/14: NO Life Night – President’s Day Weekend

2/21: Life Night

2/28: Life Night – Bethany House!!!

3/6: NO Life Night – SMT St. Patrick’s Day Party

3/11-3/13: LTLI Retreat Weekend!!!

Edge

Edge Nights take place from 7-8:30pm in the OLPH Youth Room

2/11: Edge Night

2/25: Edge Night

2/27: Edge’s Day of Retreat

3/10: Edge Night

3/24: NO Edge Night – Holy Thursday

3/27: Happy Easter!

Youth Ministry Mass 1pm



SMT Youth Ministry Office

SMT_LifeTeen@Yahoo.com

(516) 870-5669

www.SMTBethpage.org



When I read this Gospel, I think of a favorite story of mine. When I was in my thirties, my cousin lost her husband suddenly to a heart attack. He was over seventy at the time, and she was all alone since they had no children. It was a terribly sad time for her. I celebrated the funeral Mass for her husband, and she was most appreciative of that.

*Jesus began speaking
in the synagogue,
saying:
“Today this Scripture
passage is fulfilled in
your hearing.”*

*And all spoke
highly of him
‘Do here in your
native place the things
that we heard were
done in Capernaum.’”*

*And he said,
“Amen, I say to you,
no prophet is accepted
in his own native place.
Luke 4*

Several days after the funeral, no doubt deep in the state of grief, she began to worry that she might not have chosen the best funeral plot for her husband. She had buried him in a very fine Catholic cemetery, but somehow the spot where his grave was did not seem right to her. My cousin was close to my mother, and she asked if she could come and talk to Father Pat about her worries and the possibility of moving the body to another grave in the cemetery.

What she was going through was certainly understandable, but I thought it was pretty much just the anxiety and grief of the sudden death. So she came up to see me and we talked privately in our living room while my mother, unknown to me, was eavesdropping in the kitchen.

When we had finished our conversation, I believe I had brought her some peace and consolation, suggesting that there was no need to move the body. When we returned to the kitchen, my mother said to my cousin, *You have a very complicated and difficult decision to make, and I wonder if it is too much for Father Pat. Perhaps you should talk to Father McGowan about it!*

I thought of what Jesus said in today’s Gospel when the people of Capernaum rejected him since they knew him and his family and couldn’t believe that *he* was the One sent from God. This is a key moment in the Gospel. Jesus is publicly saying that *he* is the fulfillment of the Old Testament promise that God would send a Savior to his people. Jesus tells them, *“Today this Scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing.”* Although they have been impressed with Jesus in both his words and actions, they cannot see him as the Messiah, the Son of God sent by the Father, and they rise to seek to throw him down the brow of the hill.

This major incident of the Gospel led me to reflect on when *I* accepted Jesus as the Son of God? When did *I* truly believe that *he* is The Way, The Truth and The Life sent by God to save us? Certainly, the easiest answer to these questions would be at our baptisms. But unless we were baptized as adults, as infants we did not know what was happening to us. Our parents and godparents spoke for us. We heard a great deal about how evangelicals will vote in the Iowa caucuses. A central question to an evangelical is: *When did you accept the Lord Jesus Christ as your personal Savior?*

I think many of us Catholics are a bit uncomfortable with such a question. I am not sure why. I do believe that for most people, especially Catholics, faith is a very private matter “between God and me.” Many of us don’t like people asking personal questions about faith. There is a certain irony to that if we consider our faith to be a core part of our lives. We are happy to tell you how much we love the Mets, speak to you about how a movie was and encourage others to see it, tell people about a book that we think worth reading, talk about how great a grandchild is in soccer, or why you should go to this particular doctor or that restaurant. Most of us do not hesitate to give witness to *those* aspects of our lives. But to tell another person why I *love* Jesus would make me feel perhaps as if I am trying to be *holier than thou*, or that somehow I might appear to be a phony since they know well my sins and failures. Maybe someone might accuse me of being a *bible-thumper*.

I remember I used to minister in a fine program called Marriage Encounter. These programs are still active and often promoted in our bulletin. On those weekends, two or three trained couples would speak about their marriages and the priest would speak about how God fits into marriage. After each talk, each couple would answer some questions they had been given and then share with their partner what they had written. Initially, there would be some resistance to this writing and sharing but most of the couples entered into it and found it very helpful to their relationship. I do remember that the leaders said the three most difficult areas to get the couples to share about were: 1) their sexual relationship, 2) how they felt about the possibility of someday losing their spouse in death, 3) and faith. Certainly, to speak honestly about those questions is to make one very vulnerable. However, the leaders felt the most difficult area for couples to address was to talk about faith and their thoughts and feelings about God.

Be assured, I am not singling out married couples or lay people in this homily. For many years, I had the responsibility of planning and leading prayer services, days of retreat, and spiritual conversations for the Redemptorists. I learned that to tell the men to *share* about some aspect of their personal lives and faith was to meet with dead silence and the desire for a coffee break. I have found priests, including myself, who are constantly giving theological talks about God, but do not speak as quickly about who Jesus is to *them* in a very personal way.

Oftentimes, I find myself in a conversation with someone who is terminally ill and may not have long to live. I speak to them about their lives, hear their confession, anoint them, but it is very hard to say, “what is it like to be dying?” “Are you afraid?” “Do you know that Jesus is waiting for you and that he will welcome you home?” I have a tendency to avoid the key reality that is before the dying person.

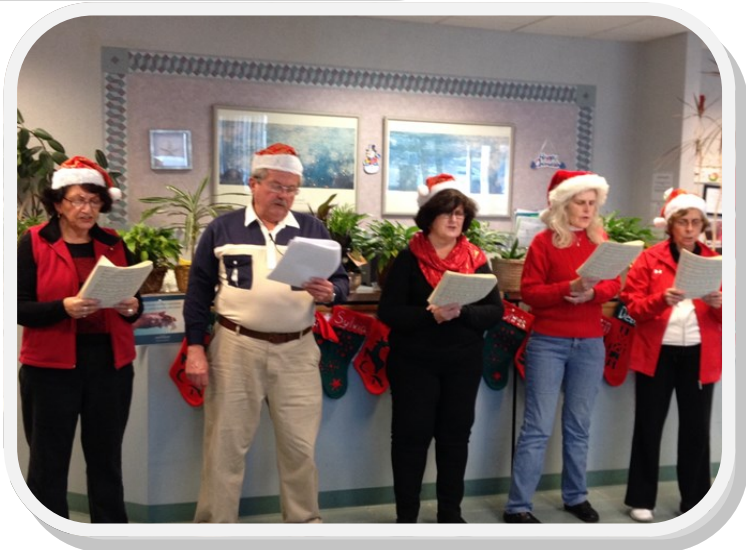
So, today we see Jesus stand up before his relatives, friends and neighbors and proclaim that *he is* the Son of God. Who is this man named Jesus to you? *Lord...Savior...Redeemer...God*. Great answers, but are they responses of the heart or the head? I will give you a little test to take home. This Sunday there is no football, so you have the time. Ask someone you love - a spouse, a parent, a child, a friend - “Tell me who Jesus is to you. Tell me how he impacts your life.” As they are running from you, tell them you will start the conversation!

Fr. Pat’s Homily of January 31, 2016



As we prepare to enter into the penitential season of Lent, a few last memories of the Christmas Season.

We are so very proud of our Children's Choir as well as our Adult Choir, both under the fine direction of Elena Scollo, who brought Christmas joy to patients at the Dialysis Center.



**25th Annual Bethpage Saint Patrick's Parade
Honoring Kathy Brenton
2016 Grand Marshal**



Grand Marshal Kathy Brenton is a founder of the Bethpage St. Patrick's Parade. In addition, she has organized the reception following the parade - for the past 24 years!

**Sunday, March 6, 2016
1:00 PM Mass
2:00 PM Parade
Through downtown Bethpage
Reception immediately following the parade
St. Martin of Tours Emmaus Hall Auditorium and Cafeteria**

RESPECT LIFE MINISTRY

CNA - CATHOLIC NEWS AGENCY PRO-WOMAN, PRO-LIFE, IS THERE REALLY A CONTRADICTION?

Washington D.C. Jan. 26 CNA/EWTN News.

WOMEN'S LIBERATION - WOMEN'S RIGHTS MOVEMENT - WAR ON WOMEN! For many the buzzwords surrounding the intersection of FEMINISM and the PRO-LIFE MOVEMENT call to mind a conflict between the two campaigns. However, for many of those involved in the PRO-LIFE MOVEMENT, PRO-LIFE and FEMINIST GOALS ARE ALIGNED, NOT OPPOSED.

In popular society many people are hearing a lot of messaging that's false in the order of "to be PRO-WOMAN, you have to be PRO-CHOICE," said Jeannie Mancini, president of the MARCH FOR LIFE to CNA. THAT'S NOT TRUE, AND IT'S DAMAGING. To help break down that message, MARCH FOR LIFE organizers chose the theme of PRO-LIFE and PRO-WOMAN GO HAND IN HAND for the 2016 MARCH FOR LIFE... We wanted to educate that being pro-life and pro-woman really do fit together, like hand and glove.

Aimee Murphy, executive director of *The Life Matters Journal*, is a Catholic and a feminist as well. "Abortion is an act of violence against preborn human beings and is CONTRARY to EQUALITY, NON-DISCRIMINATION AND NON-VIOLENCE, which are the CORE FOUNDATIONAL TENETS OF FEMINISM." As such, we believe abortion is in fact ANTIHETICAL to the core tenant of FEMINISM and as a result AUTHENTIC FEMINISM REALLY DOES LINE UP WITH PRO-LIFE BELIEFS."

"Outside the pro-life movement, however, these NON-VIOLENT and EGALITARIAN IDEALS OF FEMINISM have been CONFUSED with ABORTION, a practice that DIRECTLY OPPOSES WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT," Murphy noted. "Women WERE SOLD THIS LIE, especially during the 60s and 70s that in order to be SUCCESSFUL, IN ORDER TO BE CAREER-ORIENTED, in order to get a GOOD EDUCATION, they needed to have the right to abortion. Honestly, it is an idea rooted in a system of patriarchy." "Pro-Life feminism and non-violence challenges this narrative. "We're unwilling to take our liberation as part and parcel of the patriarchal idea that we need to KILL OUR CHILDREN. We, as women, know that we are STRONG ENOUGH AND CAN SEEK OUR EMPOWERMENT WITHOUT KILLING OUR OWN OFFSPRING!"

"There are also practical means for Pro-Life Activists to help empower and support women to make choices for their future," Kristan Hawkins, President of STUDENTS FOR LIFE OF AMERICA, told CNA. "In order to end abortion in our country, it's not going to be done with just rhetoric; it's going to be done with ACTIONS! What better way to show women facing UNPLANNED PREGNANCY she said, "than to actually be THERE and be ANOTHER OPTION FOR HER?" One of the practical projects undertakes its PREGNANT ON CAMPUS initiative, facing unplanned pregnancies with resources on campus in their communities. For students facing unplanned pregnancies, Hawkins explained, "not only are we promoting alternatives in the community, but we're that voice saying WE ARE GOING TO BE YOUR CHEERLEADER. These programs, along with other initiatives to SUPPORT WOMEN, BOTH ATTAIN THEIR GOALS AND KEEP THEIR CHILDREN, ARE A KEY PART OF WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT. "To me, it's crazy that ABORTION IS CONSIDERED A FEMINIST ISSUE, WHEN IT'S ACTUALLY THE OPPOSITE OF FEMINISM. ABORTION IS TELLING HER, YOU CAN'T DO IT ALL!"

Along with BIRTHRIGHT, MOMMA'S HOUSE, and THE LIFE CENTER OF LONG ISLAND, help is there for all women in an unplanned pregnancy. Adoption is a clear alternative. There are 4 locations for the LIFE CENTER. DEER PARK, HEMPSTEAD, RIVERHEAD AND MASSAPEQUA. Web site: www.lifecenterli.org. Massapequa Office: 516 798-9100.

Respect Life Committee

FOR HELP IN A CRISIS PREGNANCY

Call Diana Hart Miranda
(C) 830-5077 (H) 605-1979

ROSELINE, LIFE CENTER 24 HOURS
PROJECT RACHEL
WWW.HOPEAFTERABORTION.COM

Baby Safe Haven, Safe Babies Safe Place at
1 (877) 796-HOPE

Adoption, Foster Care, Maternity Services
Catholic Home Bureau 1 (800) 592-4357
NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE HOTLINE

1-800-4-Child or 1 800-422-4453



St. Martin of Tours has a website at www.smtbethpage.org where you can sign up on the home page to receive our Newsletter.

All that's required is to provide your email address to be part of an E-blast for news and information in the parish.

The Men's Group will be meeting on **Tuesday, February 23rd at 7:30PM** in the Eucharistic Chapel.

Open invitation to all men to come and see what we're about.

No obligation or commitment required.

SAVE THE DATE

Bishop Murphy is happy to announce that there will be a Diocesan Year of Mercy Pilgrimage to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception Washington, D.C.

Saturday, September 24, 2016

More information will be coming soon. Please watch your bulletin and diocesan website.



Respect Life Committee is meeting on

Wednesday, February 24th at 11AM in St. Alphonsus Hall.

All are welcome to come and join our meeting. We would love to hear your thoughts and ideas on right to life issues.

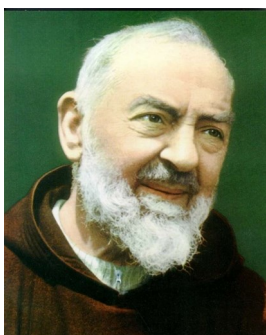


LIFE LINE SCREENING

St. Martin of Tours Church is pleased to offer a preventive health event. Life Line Screening, a leading provider of community-based preventive health screenings, will host their affordable, non-invasive and painless health screenings on Thursday, March 10, 2016.

Five screenings will be offered that scan for potential health problems related to: blocked arteries which is a leading cause of stroke; abdominal aortic aneurysms which can lead to a ruptured aorta; hardening of the arteries in the legs which is a strong predictor of heart disease; atrial fibrillation or irregular heart beat which is closely tied to stroke risk; and a bone density screening, for men and women, used to assess the risk of osteoporosis.

Register for a Wellness Package which includes 4 vascular tests and osteoporosis screening from \$149 (\$139 with our member discount). All five screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete. In order to register for this event and to receive a \$10 discount off any package priced above \$129, please call 1-888-653-6441 or visit www.lifelinescreening.com/community-partners.



There's Been a Change!

**Please note that the weekday for the Padre Pio Holy Hour
has been changed *from* the 3rd Tuesday of the month
TO
the 3rd WEDNESDAY of the month.**

**The next Saint Padre Pio Holy Hour will be on
Wednesday, February 17th at 7PM
in the Eucharistic Chapel!**



JUBILEE OF MERCY

As with other jubilee years, the Holy Father has instructed that special indulgences be available for the faithful through the duration of the Year of Mercy. Here is how to receive one.

For able-bodied Catholics:

Make a pilgrimage. Make a journey to one of the four Holy Doors in the diocese or one of the four Holy Doors in the four papal basilicas in Rome. Crossing through the Holy Door is a spiritual journey that signals, as the Holy Father said, “the deep desire for true confession.”

Go to Confession.

Receive the Holy Eucharist “with a reflection of mercy.”

Make a profession of faith.

Pray for the pope and for his intentions.

For the elderly, confined and the ill:

Pope Francis said they may obtain the indulgence by “living with faith and joyful hope during this moment of trial.”

Receiving the Eucharist, or by attending Mass and community prayer, “even through the various means of communication.”

What is an Indulgence?

According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church (No. 1471): “An indulgence is a remission before God of the temporal punishment due to sins whose guilt has already been forgiven, which the faithful Christian who is duly disposed gains under certain prescribed conditions through the action of the Church which, as the minister of redemption, dispenses and applies with authority the treasury of the satisfactions of Christ and the saints. An indulgence is partial or plenary accordingly as it removes either part or all of the temporal punishment due to sin.” Indulgences may be applied to the living or the dead.

For more information about the Jubilee Year of Mercy visit www.im.va and drvc.org.

Schedule at Jubilee Churches for the Year of Mercy

Tuesdays

Cathedral of St. Agnes – 1 Quealy Place, Rockville Centre, NY 11570

- Mass (12:10 p.m.)
- Exposition and Adoration
- Confessions
- Chaplet of Mercy
- Benediction (4:00 p.m.)

Wednesdays

Seminary of the Immaculate Conception – 440 West Neck Road, Huntington, NY 11743

- Optional lunch (12 Noon)
- Tours of the Seminary (1:00 p.m.)
- Rosary (1:45 p.m.)
- Exposition and Adoration (2:00 p.m.)
- Confessions (2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.)
- Vespers and Benediction (4:00 p.m.)

Thursdays

Basilica of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary – 168 Hill Street, Southampton, NY 11968

- Beginning with Mass at Noon
- Confessions
- Exposition and Adoration
- Tours of the Basilica (as arranged)
- Devotions to Divine Mercy in Spanish (3:00 p.m.)
- Benediction (4:00 p.m.)

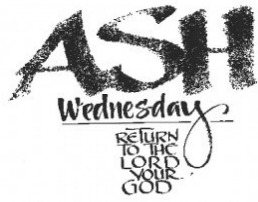
Saturdays

Shrine of Our Lady of the Island, 258 Eastport Manner Road, Manorville, NY 11949

- Beginning with Mass at 11:30 a.m.
- Exposition and Adoration
- Confessions
- Chaplet of Mercy
- Benediction (4:00 p.m.)



JUBILEE
OF MERCY



Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are obligatory days of fasting and abstinence for Catholics. In addition, Fridays during Lent are obligatory days of abstinence. For members of the Roman Catholic Church, the norms on **fasting** are obligatory from age 18 until age 59. When fasting, a person is permitted to eat one full meal. Two smaller meals may also be taken, but not to equal a full meal. The norms concerning **abstinence** from meat are binding upon members of the Roman Catholic Church from age 14 onwards.

There are exemptions other than for age from the requirement to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Those that are excused from fast and abstinence outside the age limits include the physically or mentally ill including individuals suffering from chronic illnesses such as diabetes. Also excluded are pregnant or nursing women. ***In all cases, common sense should prevail, and ill persons should not further jeopardize their health by fasting.*** Source: USCCB.org

Why is the date for Ash Wednesday and Easter different from year to year?

Easter follows a lunar, rather than a solar calendar and is celebrated on the first full moon after March 21st (the spring equinox). Easter cannot fall earlier than March 22nd or later than April 25th. Ash Wednesday's date is 40 days before Easter.

Why do we put ashes on our foreheads?

Ashes are applied to our forehead in the sign of the cross as the words, "Remember, you are dust and to dust you shall return" are spoken to us. The other formula, which is used, "Turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel," emphasizes our call to continual conversion and holiness of life. This act symbolizes our mortality as well as our need for ongoing repentance. It is a reminder that this life is short and merely a foreshadowing of what we shall become through the redemption of Jesus Christ on the cross.

Where do the ashes come from?

The ashes for Ash Wednesday normally are made from blessed palm branches from the previous Palm Sunday. The ashes are sprinkled with Holy Water and incensed before distribution.

When do I wash the Ashes off my face?

There is no specific instruction on how long ashes are to be worn. You can, in fact, wash them off immediately after the service if you want. Many people choose to wear their ashes for the remainder of the day both as a reminder of their own mortality and as a witness before those around that they are a follower of Christ and are entering into a season of examination and abstinence.

What are the significances of the 40 weekdays before Easter?

The 40 days of Lent, which precedes Easter is based on two Biblical accounts: the 40 years of wilderness wandering by the Israelites and our Lord's 40 days in the wilderness at which point He was tempted by Satan. Each year the Church observes Lent where we, like Israel and our Lord, are tested. We participate in abstinence, times of fasting, confession and acts of mercy to strengthen our faith and devotional disciplines. The goal of every Christian is to leave Lent a stronger and more vital person of faith than when we entered.

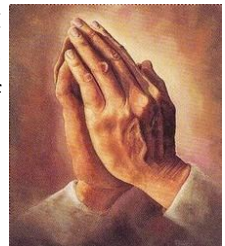
Giving something up

For older Catholics, the first thought that Lent brings to mind is giving something up. In my childhood, the standard was to give up candy, a discipline that found suitable reward in the baskets of sugary treats we received on Easter. Some of us even added to the Easter surplus by saving candy all through Lent, stockpiling what we would have eaten had we not promised to give it up. Some years ago a friend of mine told me that he had urged his children to move beyond giving up candy to giving up some habit of sin that marked their lives. About halfway through Lent he asked the children how they were doing with their Lenten promise. One of his young sons had promised to give up fighting with his brothers and sisters during Lent. When his father asked him how it was going, the boy replied, "I'm doing pretty good, Dad—but boy, I can't wait until Easter!" That response indicates that this boy had only partly understood the purpose of Lenten "giving up".

PRAYER, FASTING AND ALMSGIVING

The three traditional pillars of Lenten observance are prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

Prayer: More time given to prayer during Lent should draw us closer to the Lord. We might pray especially for the grace to live out our baptismal promises more fully. We might pray for the elect who will be baptized at Easter and support their conversion journey by our prayer. We might pray for all those who will celebrate the sacrament of reconciliation with us during Lent that they will be truly renewed in their baptismal commitment.



Fasting: Fasting is one of the most ancient practices linked to Lent. This fast was later extended and became a 40-day period of fasting leading up to Easter. Fasting is more than a means of developing self-control. It is often an aid to prayer, as the pangs of hunger remind us of our hunger for God. The first reading on the Friday after Ash Wednesday points out another important dimension of fasting. The prophet Isaiah insists that fasting without changing our behavior is not pleasing to God.

"This, rather, is the fasting that I wish: releasing those bound unjustly, untying the thongs of the yoke; setting free the oppressed, breaking every yoke; sharing your bread with the hungry, sheltering the oppressed and the homeless; clothing the naked when you see them, and not turning your back on your own" (Is 58:6-7). By our Baptism, we are charged with the responsibility of showing Christ's love to the world, especially to those in need. Fasting can help us realize the suffering that so many people in our world experience every day, and it should lead us to greater efforts to alleviate that suffering.

Almsgiving: (charity to others) It should be obvious at this point that almsgiving, the third traditional pillar, is linked to our baptismal commitment in the same way. It is a sign of our care for those in need and an expression of our gratitude for all that God has given to us. Works of charity and compassion to those in need are signs that truly do want to love Jesus since what we do for others we do for our Lord Jesus.



CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Annual HEC #32 Weekend – April 28 – May 1, 2016

PLANNING MEETINGS: February 11, March 9 and April 13

Long Island Handicapped Encounter Christ (HEC) is in need of volunteers for its annual retreat which will be held **Thursday, April 28 through Sunday, May 1, 2016 at Camp Alvernia in Centerport, NY.**

There are many volunteer roles to be filled. We are in need of team members, kitchen help, setting up and taking down the camp, as well as drivers for our candidates.

Our **first planning meeting** will take place on **Wednesday, February 11 at 7 pm at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Greenlawn** – we invite you to come hear what we are all about. Two follow-up meetings are planned for Wednesday, March 9 and Wednesday, April 13.

Please call Deacon Frank & Michele Barone at (516) 420-1207 **or e-mail** at LongIslandHEC@gmail.com for more information, to volunteer or request an application for candidate participation.

St. Martin of Tours Parish Pancake Breakfast
Sponsored by the Hartigan Council
of the Knights of Columbus

Sunday, February 28, 2016

9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Emmaus Hall (School Cafeteria)

FREE WILL OFFERING



- **What do the New York Yankees and pancakes have in common?**
They both need a good batter! **HOW TRUE!!!**
- **Did you hear about the angry pancake? He just flipped!**
- **What did the young pancake say to the old burnt pancake?**
I don't like your flip side!
- **How do you make a pancake smile?**
Butter him up. (same goes for the pastor!)

St. Vincent de Paul Store Locations:
2160 Jericho Turnpike, Garden City Park NY
(516) 746-8250

(enter New Hyde Park if you use GPS)
OPEN MON-SAT 10-6

1705 Jericho Turnpike, Huntington NY
(631) 858-0380 OPEN MON-SAT 10-6

1425A New York Avenue, Huntington Station
(631) 385-1226 OPEN MON-SAT 9-5

To arrange furniture, clothing, cars and other donated materials for pick-up, please call (516) 746-8250 (Nassau) or 1 800 884-7837 (Suffolk).

You can also visit on line at <http://www.svdprvc.org/thrift-stores.html>. Follow the links. St. Vincent de Paul will review your donation request.

The Catholic Counseling Center
12 Ryder Court, Dix Hills NY 11746

Professional therapy, provided by NYS licensed therapists, is available to our parish and 147 other parishes. This program, under the direction of George A. Giuliani, PhD, Director/Psychologist, is provided by the Catholic Counseling Center which is independent of and not controlled or supervised by the parish or the diocese.

Most insurance policies, including Medicare, are honored. Confidential information and appointments are available by calling **Dr. Giuliani at 631-243-2503.**

You may visit his website at
<http://thecatholiccounselingcenter.com>



Young Families Ministry - Leading Families Closer to Christ

Parents meet once a month to chat while the kids play. A meal is provided; it's that simple. We'd love to have you and your family join us. You do not have to be a parishioner of SMT to attend. To RSVP or for more info, contact Erin at: SMT_LifeTeen@Yahoo.com

The schedule is as follows:

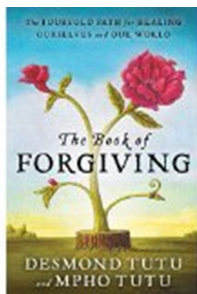
Thursdays 6:30 - 8PM in the OLPH Youth Center (School Building)
March 17, April 21, May 19 and June 16

**The Church in Need Second Collection
February 13/14, 2016**

Please give as much as your means will allow. Thank you!

Our Next Book for the Spiritual Book Club

**The Book of Forgiving: The Fourfold Path for Healing Ourselves
and Our World by Desmond Tutu**



Forgiveness is an issue that challenges all of us in our daily lives. In this Year of Mercy, I thought this would be a good book for our spiritual book club. The discussion will take place on **Saturday, March 12th at 10:00 a.m. in St. Alphonsus Hall**. All are welcome

Each of us has a deep need to forgive and to be forgiven. After much reflection on the process of forgiveness, Tutu has seen that there are four important steps to healing: admitting the wrong and acknowledging the harm; telling one's story and witnessing the anguish; asking for forgiveness and granting forgiveness; and renewing or releasing the relationship. Forgiveness is hard work. Sometimes it even feels like an impossible task. But it is only through walking this fourfold path that Tutu says we can free ourselves of the endless and unyielding cycle of pain and retribution. *The Book of Forgiving* is both a touchstone and a tool, offering Tutu's wise advice and showing the way to experience forgiveness. Ultimately, forgiving is the only means we have to heal ourselves and our aching world.

Living Stations of the Cross

**Come Relive the Journey
of Jesus to Calvary**

Palm Sunday, March 20, 2016

7:30 pm

St. Martin of Tours Church





Ash Wednesday is February 10th.

Ashes will be distributed at

the following Masses:

6:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

And at the following services:

12 NOON & 4:00 p.m.

**2016 Schedule of the Stations of the Cross
Fridays at 7:30PM During Lent**

**February 12, February 19, February 26
March 4, March 11, March 18**



UPCOMING EVENTS

- Feb 9: Youth Ministry Holy Hour 7PM Church
- Feb 10: Ash Wednesday - see schedule top of this page
- Feb 12: Stations of the Cross 7:30PM Church (every Friday during Lent)
- Feb 15: Presidents Day - Rectory Closed - No 6:30AM Mass
- Feb 17: St. Padre Pio Holy Hour 7PM Eucharistic Chapel
- Feb 23: Men's Group 7:30PM Eucharistic Chapel
- Feb 24: Respect Life Committee 11AM St. Alphonsus Hall
- Mar 6: Bethpage Saint Patrick's Parade Mass at 1PM Church
Parade at 2PM followed by reception in Emmaus Hall
- Mar 10: Life Line Screening
- Mar 12: Spiritual Book Club 10AM St. Alphonsus Hall
- Mar 20: Living Stations of the Cross 7:30PM Church

